



Can I recycle Styrofoam?

NO. Seattle residents cannot recycle foam containers in their curbside recycling containers. Ask your local mail house to see if they'll reuse foam packaging, or you can take it to Styro Recycle in Renton.

Lots of other items that can't be recycled in your recycling cart can be reused or recycled at locations throughout Seattle. For free drop-off recycling services for things like CFL light bulbs, batteries, cell phones and medicine, visit www.seattle.gov/util/lookup.

Do I need to take the labels off my fruit before composting them?

YES. Those cute little stickers on your oranges and apples are made of plastic and don't break down into compost, so peel them off before putting your apple cores and orange peels in the food and yard waste cart. Other stuff not allowed in the compost includes pet waste (double bag in plastic and put in garbage), coffee cups and milk or ice cream cartons (put in recycling).

Help! I'm always sorting out recyclables out of the garbage. How can I help my roommates get it right?

I don't want to name names, but I've found that although everyone likes to recycle in Seattle, some folks can only carry their recyclables so far before the urge throw it away becomes too much. Try pairing up your garbage containers with a recycling container so there's always something good for them to aim for! Make sure to keep recycling containers in areas that generate a lot of waste, such as the home office, kitchen or garage. It may take a small amount of space, but you'll save a lot of time and stress by not having to sort the trash out on recycling day. And don't forget to post recycling guidelines on your refrigerator and other locations. You can print more copies at www.seattle.gov/util.

What numbers of plastic can I recycle?

In Seattle, we ignore the numbers on the plastic containers. They denote the type of plastic resin the container is made of, not its ability to be recycled. In Seattle, you can recycle the following plastic items: rigid food containers such as bottles, cups, take-out containers, tubs, jars, lids wider than 3 inches; plant pots; and bags, if they are bundled and tied together. Make sure everything is empty and clean before recycling it. Visit www.seattle.gov/util/lookup to find more recyclable items.

Compost Days Offers Big Discounts

Compost Days is here, offering big discounts on compost as a "thank you" for helping make Seattle's curbside composting program a success! Last year Seattle diverted more than 125,000 tons of food and yard waste from the landfill and helped turn it into compost for local parks and gardens instead.

Hurry! Now through April 15, your local Fred Meyer store is offering up to 30% off kitchen compost containers and compostable bags. Learn more at www.CompostDays.com.



Free Compost!

**Buy 2 Bags
Get a 3rd Bag Free!**

Receive a free bag of compost when you buy two bags at any participating Compost Days retailer. Offer ends April 15, 2014. Learn more at CompostDays.com



Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Spring 2014

Seattle
Public
Utilities



Don't Drip and Drive: Fix that Leak!

You won't get your hands dirty when you attend a FREE Auto Leaks Class — a \$125 value! But you will get your car inspected, discover if you have any leaks, and find out how much repairs cost BEFORE you go to the mechanic. A leaky car isn't a reliable car. Plus it's harmful to Puget Sound.

Choose from these upcoming dates at South Seattle Community College in West Seattle: April 19, May 17, or June 21.

Want a different location? Try one of our classes at West Seattle High School, Renton Technical College or Shoreline Community College.

REGISTER TODAY: www.fixcarleaks.org

Stop Flushing Away Your Money

Toilets are a household's biggest water user — old, leaky models can impact your utility bill. Replace your pre-2001 models with our help!

- ✓ **FREE TOILET OFFER:** For income-qualified customers. Installation and recycling of your old toilet provided free of charge. Go to www.seattle.gov/util/FreeToilets or call **(206) 448-5751**.
- ✓ **\$75 REBATE:** For a limited time, replace your old, water-guzzling toilet with a new Premium WaterSense-labeled model. Go to www.savingwater.org/rebates or call **(206) 684-SAVE (7283)**.



The information in this newsletter can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at **(206) 684-3000**. TDD telephone number is **(206) 233-7241**. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

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**SPRING CLEAN
STARTS APRIL 1!**

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
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Vê dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Get more information: Visit www.seattle.gov/util/lookup, follow Ask Evelyn on Facebook www.facebook.com/EvelyntheEnvelope or write to Ask Evelyn, PO BOX 34018 Seattle, WA 98124-4018.

Free Kitchen Food Waste Containers!

Sign up a Friend of Recycling and Composting (FORC) volunteer, and your multi-family property is eligible for a \$100 credit on the property's utility bill. A FORC can be a property manager, facilities person, or resident who monitors recycling and food waste containers and educates residents. When the FORC attends an optional free training, your property qualifies for free kitchen food waste containers for all units.

The 2014 FORC trainings are scheduled as follows:

- ✓ Late May, daytime, southeast Seattle
- ✓ Sept/Oct, evening, northeast Seattle

To qualify:

Step 1 — Sign up a FORC at www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste or call **(206) 684-7665**. Please have your property's account number. A green FORC folder including a pledge will be mailed to the FORC. Send the pledge back to SPU to receive the \$100 credit.

Step 2 — After sign-up (pledge not required), register for a training by contacting **(206) 684-5223** or mason.giem@seattle.gov.

Step 3 — Attend the training. Kitchen containers will be delivered within a month after the training.

For Seattle Apartments and
Condominiums Only!
(5 or more units)



Training space and buckets are
limited so early registration
is recommended.

Fremont/North Transfer Station } CLOSED

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is replacing the North Transfer Station in Fremont with a more modern and efficient facility that will meet the growing future needs of the city. To prepare for the demolition work, the station is now closed. During the two-year construction period, station users are encouraged to use the South Transfer Station facility at 130 South Kenyon Street in South Park.

Directions and station hours for the South Transfer Station are at www.seattle.gov/util/Dump.

Visit www.seattle.gov/util/NewNorth to learn more about the North Transfer Station rebuild.

Save yourself a trip!

Have SPU pick up your bulky items—old furniture, mattresses, appliances and the like. The cost is \$30 per item. Call **(206) 684-3000** to arrange a bulky item collection.

Mow Better... Grow Better...

Grasscycling (leaving the clippings on the lawn) is a win-win-win choice!

It's good for your lawn, good for you, and good for the environment.

- ✓ Helps green-up your lawn in spring and keeps it green longer in summer
- ✓ Cuts your fertilizer costs (and effort) since clippings provide up to half of your lawn's annual nutrient needs
- ✓ Saves time — no more bagging clippings and dragging them to the curb
- ✓ Cuts lawn watering — grasscycling is like applying a light mulch, which helps retain moisture

You can grasscycle with any lawnmower.

Just leave the bag off and let the clippings drop. When it's time to buy a new mower, shop for a "mulching" mower. Mulching mowers chop the clippings finely and blow them down to the soil, where they aren't visible, can't be tracked into the house, and feed the earthworms and microbes that feed your lawn.

- ✓ For best results, mow higher (1 to 2 inches for most grass types) and mow weekly. That's healthiest for your lawn, conserves moisture, and reduces clumping.

MULCH your flower and shrub beds with 2 -3 inches of compost or wood chips to:

- ✓ Retain soil moisture
- ✓ Help keep weeds from growing
- ✓ Feed your plants by feeding the soil

PLANT in early spring while soil is still cool and moist.

Roots will get a good start before the dry season.

- ✓ Dig compost into soil for healthier plants
- ✓ Select plants to match your sun, shade, and soil conditions
- ✓ When planting, dig a wide hole to help roots spread out, water in well, and mulch



Learn More...

- ✓ Watch gardening celebrity Marianne Binetti's video on www.savingwater.org.
- ✓ See our grasscycling tips and mulch-mower shopping guide at www.GardenHotline.org.
- ✓ Contact the Garden Hotline at www.GardenHotline.org or **(206) 633-0224** for expert answers to all your gardening questions.
- ✓ Visit www.savingwater.org for gardening videos and other great resources.

Get Great Seasonal Lawn & Garden Tips
Throughout the Year!

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www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews



STARTS APRIL 1!

Spring Clean Your Neighborhood

It's time for Spring Clean,

Seattle's premier community cleanup event. Seattle Public Utilities invites you and your neighbors to participate April 1—May 31.

Help pick up litter, stencil storm drains, paint out graffiti, or remove invasive plants in your community. All Spring Clean projects are on public property. Volunteers receive free litter cleanup bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste disposal permits.

REGISTER ONLINE OR BY PHONE:

www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean

(206) 233-7187